

Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Jonathan Greenert
&
Commandant of the Marine Corps
General James F. Amos

Deliver remarks at the Navy Marine Corps Relief Ball
March 24, 2012

Admiral Greenert: My partner and I want to thank you for all that you do here tonight, but also when you see that picture on the front, when Jim and I were in training together, Jennifer Tidd took our picture and did the painting from there. So make sure you bid that up.

General Amos: Jennifer was telling me that when she did that picture her husband Mark said, you know, you can't have more blood on one bayonet than on the other one, and you can't have the Sailor looking more manly than the Marine or the Marine looking more manly than the Sailor. So ladies and gentlemen, how about a round of applause for Jennifer Tidd.

Admiral Greenert: This is a night of saying thanks and that's kind of my theme here for a few minutes. I'm so thankful for all those Sailors and Marines that you saw up here on the display. Today there's 100 of our ships deployed, 145 underway, 50,000 of our kids are out deployed and probably over 100,000 are underway, with hundreds of thousands of family members supporting them, worrying about them, taking care of them. And so many of you out there tonight, thank you for taking care of those family members and those kids.

I also want to thank Bill Gortney for switching numbers for me for the silent auction tonight, so we're going to see that number [inaudible]. Bill, I want to thank you very much for that.

I want to thank Jim Amos and the Marine Corps for being such terrific partners. When you see -
- Jim and Bonnie, sometimes known as Nurse Kathy Bates nowadays, an unbelievable partner.

But in all seriousness, it's amazing to see what has become of the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Ball, and the committee, the committee, the committee -- Sherry, please, one more time. Sherry Gordon.

[Inaudible] as Navy/Marine Corps, and that's great. Look at all that. Then you get joint. We've got Sandy Bayonet, thank you for coming tonight Sandy because probably Jim or I would have been up there, so nicely done. You can take the Vaseline off the face, you're good to go.

So it's a very joint affair. You look around and you see officers from all around. Officers from all the services. Enlisted from all the services here tonight. It's interagency, it's inter-government. We have a Member of Congress here tonight. And you know what? We've actually gone truly international and I would be remiss if I didn't say a howdy and please stand to the longest ally we have ever had. Our Navy has certainly ever had in this country. The Chief

of the French Navy and his wife join us tonight. Admiral Bernard Rogel. Admiral, please come up – and his wonderful wife Christine.

Thank you so much. 235 years, that's not bad.

Just a few factoids, if you will. Over 100 years this organization has been taking care of our Sailors and Marines and we thank you very much for that. Last year alone about 4,000 volunteers took care of our Sailors and Marines with over \$50 million of, if you will, I don't want to say donations, they're loans, they're helpful ways to take care of them and they served over 100,000. You do the math. That's about \$500 per. And it's marvelous and it's wonderful, and it's scholarships, grants, loans where they need them and all that goes with that. I thank you very much for that.

General Amos: Thank you, Johnny. I want to reiterate. There's a special bond that takes place when you're the Vice of a service. John was the Vice CNO when I was the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. We're down there doing all the things that the Commandant and the Chief of Naval Operations don't want to do. We do. I remember asking Jim Conway, well, what do you want me to do? He said I want you to do everything that I don't want to do. It was that way. So there's a bond that took place, and even before that when John was N8 and I was down at Quantico. So this is a great team. And nowhere is it probably better exemplified except in warfare, when we're out on the sea, when we're doing things that our naval force is paid money to do, it's probably more exemplified here tonight.

John, since you paid tribute to the French, I have to pay tribute to my good friend the former Commandant General of the Royal Marines, Buster Howe. Stand up, Buster. And his lovely wife Jane.

Buster, we just talked a minute ago, we hadn't seen each other in a while, and he had a change of command not too long ago. He's the Defense Attaché at the British Embassy. He just got married to Jenny. So I looked at him and I said how's it feel to not have a real job? That's a joke. But it's good to see you.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a wonderful occasion. Sherry, we talked before the dinner. This is hard duty. We look here and everybody shows up in their fancy uniforms and the ladies look beautiful, but this is tough work and it goes on all year. So thank you for you, the committee, all the folks, all the ladies that put in weeks and weeks and weeks of work. So for all the committee, God bless everyone, and thank you.

Sandy, I've got to tell you, I was checking to see if you were blinking, and you were a manly man. I was very very impressed for a Tomcat driver. No, that was perfect.

Steve Abbott is sitting right over here. Sir, I've known you since I was a lieutenant colonel. You've taken this organization and put your heart and soul in it. The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is what you and your team, your board members have made of it. So thank you for what you do.

John talked about the \$48 million, but in that, and John will introduce one of the key functions to that. They're all meaningful, but one of the more today meaning functions is the visiting nurse, and John will talk about that.

But you think about that \$48 million plus and the almost 90,000 Marines and Sailors that that money has touched. You think about things like payday loans. It wasn't but about three or four years ago that the MCCOM and the Sergeant major of the Marine Corps were absolutely trying to shut down these charlatans that were taking money from our young men and women right outside our bases on payday loans. This organization has done that.

The other thing I'd like to tell you, we've been at war for a little over ten years now and when you do this you learn an awful lot about the character of the services, and you also learn about the strains and struggles and families and things that happened that might otherwise get overlooked or maybe not happen to the degree that it happens during combat. But one of the organizations, John and I get an opportunity to I guess touch an awful lot of benevolence organizations and I will tell you that there are none more honorable, none more faithful to the men and women that wear the cloth that he and I wear and serve and that you wear and serve, than the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

So on behalf of all of the 202,000 active duty Marines and 39,600 Reserve Marines, we're damn proud to be a part of this organization. Thank you very much. Hooah.

Admiral Greenert: Now we get to listen to somebody that's meaningful.

Ruthie Moore. I have the honor and privilege of introducing our speaker, Ruthie Moore. Over 45 years of distinguished service, public service, an Army nurse. You can't beat an Army nurse. Learned the importance of care for Vietnam veterans returning home and that impact on families. Way back when, when people were really maybe not treating Vietnam Vets the way they should, she was.

She's known for great patience and she is obviously very tolerant and can deal with all kinds of weird people. Her husband is a submarine officer, ladies and gentlemen. Not that there's anything wrong with that. A Red Cross nurse at the Yokosuka Naval Hospital in the late '80s, no [inaudible] for compassion. She knows that isolated feeling that families can feel when they're overseas for long periods of time. She was a Navy Marine Corps relief nurse in Pearl Harbor in the late '80s and a nurse at the Mt. Vernon Hospital here in the late '80s into the early '90s.

Today she's the Director of Nursing for the Navy Marine Corps Relief society. She has oversight and she has standardized the nurse programs. 50 nurses, 28 locations, all around. Expanded the nurse programs to really something that has long been enduring, and today as Jim said, they are really great care givers and they care for 1500 of our wounded warriors and their families.

So please join me in welcoming Ruthie Moore.

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